

## **Amendments to the Specification**

**Page 1, line 1, immediately below the title, insert the following paragraph:**

This application is a Continuation application of Serial No. 10/026,828, filed December 27, 2001, which is a Divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/319,777, filed June 11, 1999, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,350,587, which is a U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/GB97/03401, filed December 10, 1997.

**Page 1, line 5, please rewrite as follows:**

**Background**

Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention is related to a mutant *Bacillus* strain and an antibolic screening method using the same.

2. Description of the Related Art

**Page 2, line 8, please rewrite as follows:**

Summary of the Invention

**Page 3, lines 1-5, please rewrite the paragraph as follows:**

In another aspect aspect, the present invention provides a method of determining whether an agent inhibits SpoOJ function in *Bacillus* species, which method comprises inducing the *Bacillus* strain as described to divide asymmetrically, as during sporulation, in the presence of the agent, and observing expression of the first and/or the second reporter gene.

**Page 3, lines 6-11, please rewrite the paragraph as follows:**

In another aspect aspect, the present invention provides a method which comprises inducing the *Bacillus* strain as described to sporulate in the presence of an agent, observing

expression of the first and/or second reporter gene and thereby determining that the agent inhibits SpoOJ function in the *Bacillus* species, and using the agent as an antibiotic to kill or inhibit the growth of bacteria.

**Page 3, between lines 11-12, please insert the following:**

Brief Description of the Drawing:

Figure 1 shows the effect of a SpoOJ mutation on expression of a  $\sigma^F$  - dependent reporter gene placed at different chromosomal locations in a spoIIIE background.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

**Page 3, lines 18-26, please rewrite the paragraph as follows:**

In the method of the present invention, expression of the first and second reporter genes is preferably observed by monitoring changes in the levels of or the ratio of their products. Preferably Preferably, the first and second reporter genes are expressed as enzymes whose activities are observed by any convenient means e.g. fluorimetry or spectrophotometry. Preferably Preferably, the *Bacillus* strain is induced to sporulate and is contacted, just prior to asymmetric cell division, with the agent being investigated. The method can conveniently be performed as a screening test for putative antimicrobial agents.

**Page 3, line 27 to page 4, line 3, please rewrite the paragraph as follows:**

Any *Bacillus* species may be used that is capable of sporulating under suitable conditions and for which genetic constructions can be made. *B subtilis* is conveniently accessible and well characterised and thus is preferred.